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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

HAFTEK

Examiner:

J. DOLAN

Serial No.:

09/442,671

Group Art Unit:

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WRITER DESIGN ELIMINATING TRANSITION CURVATURE FOR VERY

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RESPONSE

By:

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Box Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

This Response is in reply to the Office Action mailed on November 13, 2002. Therefore, the time period for response extends up to and includes February 13, 2003. In the subject Action, claims 1-21 were rejected. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

§102 REJECTIONS

First, at paragraph 2 of the Action, claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nepela, U.S. 5,734,533. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Nepela discloses a magnetic transducer device with a bottom magnetic pole (P1), a top magnetic pole (P2), and a nonmagnetic gap layer having a dual gap 12 deposited between the top and bottom poles. Dual gap 12 includes a wide central gap 14 and two gradually recessed gaps 16, 18. Nepela discloses a single example of the device in which the thickness of central gap 14 is 0.2 microns, and the side gaps 16, 18 have a thickness of 0.05 microns (col. 3, line 60 to col. 4,